



*The*

# BRITISH LUTHERAN

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February 1959 Vol. IV, No. 2

INFORMATION, ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Issued by*

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# Robert Barnes

IT IS FITTING that the biographical series by which we have linked our hands across the centuries with great Christian men should end with one whose memory our own ELCE ministers have honoured by naming their pastoral conference after him.

"Restorer of letters" to his Cambridge students, head of a monastery at one time and exiled heretic at another to the church of his day, legate and chaplain to Henry VIII, "the holy martyr, St. Robert to Dr. Luther, first English Lutheran pastor, to us - Robert Barnes was all of these.

He was born in Kings Lynn in Norfolk in 1495. At Cambridge, where he had been a student, he became Prior of the Augustinian monastery and a popular lecturer in the classics. It was "little Bilney" who turned him from love of letters to concern for the Gospel. With Bilney and Hugh Latimer, Barnes became the centre of a group which met secretly at the White Horse Inn to read and discuss the books of another Augustinian, Martin Luther.

On Christmas Eve 1525, Barnes preached a sermon at St. Edward's which threw the University into ferment. He took Luther's own sermon on the Epistle for the Fourth Sunday in Advent and attacked the worldly pomp of the clergy, singling out Cardinal Wolsey himself. Seized and tried in London, he was threatened with burning. Barnes recanted and, after enduring a sermon Against Luther and Dr. Barnes at crowded St. Paul's, did public penance.

Three years later, but still a prisoner, Barnes escaped to Wittenberg. Here, in close contact with Luther, he studied and wrote for three years.

In July 1535, King Henry, needing Lutheran allies, invited Barnes to return appointing him his chaplain and his legate to negotiate with Lutheran princes. But Barnes' day was shortlived. A bishop attacked Luther's doctrine as "devils offering heaven without works to sinners". Barnes retaliated. He was thrown into the Tower and, without trial, condemned. He died at the stake at Smithfield on 30 July 1540.



## The Athanasian Creed

The grandest production of the Church since the time of the Apostles - Dr. Luther named this, the third and last of the so-called ecumenical creeds. Actually, the Creed was neither written by Athanasius, nor is it ecumenical since, in the Eastern Church, it is not given the same recognition as the Apostles' or the Nicene Creeds.

Who wrote the Athanasian Creed, and when, are two questions hard to answer. Perhaps it was the work of Hilary of Arles or of Ambrose, perhaps, like the Apostles' Creed, not so much the work of one man as of the Church. Most scholars place its origin in Gaul or North Africa and its date between 381 and 428.

In form, the Athanasian Creed differs from the other two ancient creeds. It was never used as a baptismal formula nor, in the earliest times, even as a confession of faith from the mouth of a whole congregation. It does not begin, "I believe". Like the Te Deum, which is also a creed in the form of a psalm, the Athanasian Creed was called and sung as a hymn or canticle in the Middle Ages.

Two subjects dominate the Creed: the Trinity and the Incarnation. These are the two great mysteries of the Christian Revelation. Explicitly and yet reverently, the Athanasian Creed explains, as far as human language and understanding can, what Christians mean when they confess: "God is one, yet three Persons" and "Jesus is God, yet man."

"This is the catholic faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved". So at the end, as also at the beginning and in the middle, the Creed warns against rejecting truths which are the foundation of the Christian faith.

In the worship of our church, the Athanasian Creed is confessed on Trinity Sunday.

# Justification

Since I have spoken of faith as the first keyword in the Christian vocabulary, I must speak of justification next because it has the most immediate connection with faith; in fact, the two terms are inseparable.

Justification by faith alone is the primary doctrine of the Lutheran church.

## Self-justification

Justification by faith does not mean, as some seem to think, "That I believe I am justified in doing what I am doing". We try to "justify ourselves" for what is not right in our lives, believing that we have good reason for doing it and that it is excusable in our case. But this is folly before God. Jesus said: "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men, but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16,15.

## Never Anything We Do

Justification can never be anything we do, but what God does, and gives us, on account of Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone. The repentant sinner who relies for salvation on Jesus alone God declares just because of the perfect righteousness which Jesus achieved before God on our behalf and which we could never hope to achieve. "By Jesus all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the Law." Acts 13,39. "Man is justified by faith". Rom. 3,28.

To justify means in Scripture to declare just. "God justifies the ungodly". Rom.4,5. Unrighteous though we are, God for Jesus' sake declares us righteous. To all Christians there is no more precious word than "justification" - unless it be the name "Jesus", on account of whom we are justified through our faith in Him.

Arnold E. Rakow

# Your Missions Around the World

MARVIN BRAMMEIER

MISSIONS CORRESPONDENT

"Come over to Ghana and help us!"

In July 1957, our church in America received this letter from the Rev. Samuel K. Asanta of Accra in Ghana:

"This comes to inform you that I was an African student of Hood Theological Seminary Salisbury, N. C., U.S.A. After my graduation in June 1955, I sailed back to Ghana, West Africa, to do missionary work.

"It will interest you to know that, by the grace of God, I have succeeded in establishing a Lutheran church in Accra, capital of Ghana. During my student days in America, I had the privilege of seeing the film entitled: 'Here I Stand', the life history of Martin Luther. I was so much thrilled with the nature of the film on that particular day that I firmly resolved to have a Lutheran church established on my safe arrival back home in Africa.

"I trust your church will favourably and sympathetically accept the great challenge I have presented before them without failure or disappointment whatsoever. 'Come over to Macedonia (Ghana) and help us' is my final petition to you and your church.

How did our church respond to this African challenge? It resolved, in convention August 1958, to "begin work in Ghana as speedily as feasible".

Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast) is the youngest of the world's independent nations and a member of the British Commonwealth. Its 8 million people are divided into 50 or more tribes. The two principal languages are Twi and Ga. 50% of the people are pagan, 30% Muslim; several Christian Churches are at work in Ghana.



**PETTS WOOD** Church Council and congregation are heartened by meetings with architect to discuss proposed church building ... experimental evening services poorly attended ... Pastor Sims' lecture at Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. on the history and teaching of the Lutheran Church well received ... fortnightly Bible Class to begin 16 February ... appointment of Mr. S. Watkins as SS Superintendent leaves pastor more time for newly-formed Junior Confirmation Class ... regular SS teachers' meetings prepare next Sunday's lessons and discuss basic pedagogical principles ... new duplicating machine turns out parish bulletin, "The Petts Wood Lutheran", and parish youth magazine, "The Youth-eran" (!), edited capably by Tony Venning ... Ladies' Guild very keen about a national Lutheran women's organization.

**BOREHAM WOOD** First mid-week Lenten services began at St. Pauls on Ash Wednesday at 8 ... CEF Savings Stamps introduced into Sunday School ... 1958-59 winter film series with showings every Saturday night finished 7 February with "Martin Luther" ... only moderate results.

**CAMBRIDGE** First two students preparing for the ministry at Cambridge will enter in October 1959: James Burrows of South Ruislip at Fitzwilliam House, Jonathan Cremer of Cardiff at Cheshunt College ... de Luxe edition of the Service book and a communion set presented to congregation by two of its members ... 1958 average attendance at alternate services in Cambridge and Lakenheath 35, 15 at Holy Communion ... two families, at least, drive 50 miles, return trip, to attend Lutheran Worship in Cambridge, another family of six over 140 miles - with breakfast on the way!

**HARLOW** CALL TO PASTOR V. HENNIG OF CANADA  
ACKNOWLEDGED ... NO DECISION YET.

**SUNDERLAND** The Pastor shook the Premier's hand recently when Prime Minister Harold Macmillan stopped to chat in Fawcett Street ... Pastor Bosch's comment: "If only I had Pastor Jose take a colour picture of it!" ... new council installed 25 January: Albert Longley, president; Edgar Potts, Vice-president; Eric Cardwell, Secretary-treasurer; Ronald Woolston, Elder; Wm. Kay, trustee ... scheduled for 1959: ten film showings to introduce Lutheran Church to people moving into new flats surrounding church ... Paul Lang's book, "Church Ushering", discussed at meeting on 3 Feb., each potential usher buying his own copy ... six Luther Leaguers went to Durham to skate on the ice but spent most of the time skating on the wrong end ... new Ladies' Guild officers: Mrs. Barbara Morrow, president; Miss Ethel Gibson, Sec-treasurer.

**GRINDON** "Genesis of ITV in North means Exodus from the church - at least, temporarily", reports Pastor Desmond Jose in explaining falling attendances at church, SS, and youth clubs ... Senior Youth add Judo to their activities ... children's choir practising for joint Communion service at St. Timothys on Ash Wednesday.

**BROMLEY** New adult instruction class of two begins at home of Mrs. Anson on 12 February ... small but regular church attendance.

**TOTTENHAM** New church council: A.M. Kahl, president; Arthur Smith, secretary; Eric Smith, treasurer; Wm. Aichroth and Albert Smith, elders ... 1959 committees: Stewardship - E. Chown and Arthur Smith; Missions - H. Lang and T. Roberts; Education - W. Martin and J. Brown; Visual-Aids: Eric Smith and J. Tovey ... new ladies' guild holds first meeting on 3 March ... preview of statistics for 1958, in which there was a vacancy of several months, reveals fall in attendance but 15% rise in congregational receipts to £2,246.

## LUTHERAN "MINISTER STANDS GUARD" SAYS LONDON PAPER

"The Rev. John Sims, minister of the Lutheran Church at Petts Wood, Kent, waited up last night to catch the culprit who regularly tears down his notice board outside the local Memorial Hall, but, for the first Sunday in two months, the culprit never turned up", the London Evening News told its 1,211,532 readers on 2 February under the headline: "Minister Stands Guard". Pastor Sims reports that the local newspapers, the West Kent Mercury and the Kentish Times, also gave prominent space to the vandalism which destroyed five posters in 8 weeks.

## AMERICAN FILM STAR ADDRESSES YOUTH RALLY

Film and TV actor Richard Denning, at present at the ABC Elstree studios filming the Australian "Flying Doctor" series, told 60 Lutheran youth at Holy Trinity, South Tottenham: "As a Lutheran, I have been thrilled to find Lutheran churches wherever I am on location - Hong Kong, Sidney, New Zealand or London." The Lutheran mission at Boreham Wood where he attends regularly at present he found reminiscent of his own Hollywood congregation which began in an attic with twelve present.

The occasion was the Winter Youth Rally on 7 Feb. at Tottenham. Arranged by the Holy Trinity Luther Society, the programme included two films on Denmark, where the 1959 Lutheran Youth Tour will visit, and ended with the Service of Vespers conducted by Pastor Roger Winger, host minister.

## LADIES RECOMMEND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Four representatives of Lutheran Ladies' Guilds in London area put their signatures to a resolution which will recommend to the 1959 Synod the formation of a national association of ELCE women. Mrs. J. Taylor (St. Andrews) Mrs. E. Barker (Christ Church), Mrs. F. Thoelek (Luther-Tyndale) and Mrs. W. Ritchie (Holy Trinity), the proposers, were part of a larger committee who discussed the question at two meetings, on 25 January and 15 February.



## TOTTENHAM TREASURER RETIRES AFTER 55 YEARS

Founding member and first treasurer of Holy Trinity in 1903, Mr. John G. Dunsbier, 84, tendered his resignation as treasurer to Holy Trinity Voters' Assembly on 12 February. For 55 years, Mr. Dunsbier has been an elder either at Luther-Tyndale (1912-1945) or at Holy Trinity and at the same time has served continually as treasurer or in some other financial capacity. In a letter to the Voters' Assembly, he stated: "The work has always given me great pleasure. God has given me good health and the ability to do it. All thanks to Him alone".

## BRITISH ARMY BUYS MORE LUTHERAN FILMS

Repeat orders for "The Unfinished Task" and "Martin Luther" were received recently from the British Army for showing to soldiers at home and overseas, according to a recent report from Lutheran Film Service. Subtitled in Norwegian, "The Unfinished Task" was also given its Norwegian premiere in the port-city of Stavanger. The Film Service recommends the half-hour "Gates of Glory", its newest production, for Easter showing to ELCE congregations.

## NEW BRITISH LUTHERAN SERIES BEGINNING MARCH

"My Faith at Work" will be the general theme of a new series of articles in the British Lutheran to begin with the March issue. It will replace the biographical sketches of great Christians of the past which end in this issue with "Robert Barnes". The new series will attest the power of Christian faith out of the lives of several men and women of our church today, each of whom will contribute an article.

## MEMORIAL WREATHS

In loving memory of Mrs. Meta Newman who died in Cambridge on 8 January at the age of 67: from Pastor and Mrs. N. Heintz £1; Mr. and Mrs. A. Flemming £1; Mr. L. and Miss G. Launer £2; Pastor and Mrs. E. Geo. Pearce £2, total £6 for CEF; from a Luther-Tyndale Family £2 for the Lutheran Hour

## SYNODICAL ESSAYIST AND PREACHER NAMED

The Rev. Arnold Rakow of St. Andrews, S. Ruislip, and the Rev. Norman Nagel of Cambridge were invited by the Executive Council at their meeting on 10 February to deliver the 1959 synodical essay and sermon respectively. The Synod, the annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, will meet at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Boreham Wood, Herts., for two days, Friday and Saturday, 17-18 April. The meeting will be attended by 26 delegates representing all congregations, missions and boards of the ELCE. Also expected to attend will be three members of the Board for European Affairs of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod: Dr. Herman Mayer, Prof. M. Naumann, and Dr. O. A. Dorn. The Resolutions to be debated at the Synod will be sent soon to all congregations for study.

## NEW BOOKLET EXPLAINS DEED OF COVENANT

Mr. Jones gives £52...but his church receives £90. How? A new booklet, "How to Make the Most of Your Gifts to the Church", just issued, tells how. In twenty-odd pages, an income tax consultant and a pastor explain the Deed of Covenant by which the church may claim the income tax paid on the gifts of its members. Appended are tables which enable the reader to discover for himself how he can enlarge his church gift at no extra cost. Two common fallacies are pointed out: the Deed of Covenant is not restricted to those who pay a high rate of tax, and, second, it does not require a donation over and above the regular weekly envelope offering. Copies of the booklet are available to all churches.

## FURTHER DESIGNS ASKED FOR RUISLIP BUILDING

Alternative sketch plans for the proposed Lutheran Church of St. Andrews at South Ruislip were requested by the Executive Council at their meeting on 27 January. Careful consideration was given to the first sketches put forward and approved by the St. Andrews Building Committee.

# CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

## LOANS AND DONATIONS

(Receipts for 1958 CEF Year)



	<u>L o a n s</u>		<u>Donations</u>
	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
KENTISH TOWN	£1785	£2838	£216
TOTTENHAM	1390	1694	256
RUISLIP	53	471	16
SUNDERLAND	0	45	1
BROMLEY	50	76	0
BOREHAM WOOD	1	1	0
PETTS WOOD	129	245	67
GRINDON	6	20	5
CARDIFF			10
OTHERS	0	0	679
Totals	(£3414)	£5390	£1250

GRAND TOTAL RAISED IN 1958      £6640

### A GRAND FINISH

£3546 in loans and gifts raised in the last month of the 1958 CEF Year! A grand finish which, though far from enough to put us over the top, enabled us to end the year with a respectable £6640. And if we add to this (as we might) the £900 lent and the £520 given by our ELCE members to help acquire our headquarters building at 42, Museum Street, the total is raised to over £8,000.

We thank God Who has opened the hearts of our people to loan and give to the CEF in its first two years over £20,000 or £60 (\$170 to our American readers) for each communicant member.

1959 GOAL . . . . . £12,000

£12,000 is the goal and "Every Member a Regular Investor" the slogan for the 1959 CEF Year launched 7 February. If this slogan is realized, though we failed in 1958, we shall succeed in 1959, the good and merciful Saviour granting His blessing!



# WHY OBSERVE LENT

FOR CENTURIES the Christian Church has set aside the six weeks before Easter as a period of special preparation. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Good Friday, it has observed what tradition has called a "closed season".

But why observe Lent? Why a special period of preparation? That all depends upon what significance we attach to the great Christian festivals of Good Friday and Easter.



The Christian religion is built upon the rock bottom fact of the atonement of Christ. It teaches that on Good Friday, some 1900 years ago, the Son of God gave His life in payment for the sins of all mankind. As a result of this substitution of the Innocent for the guilty, the sins of the entire human race have been atoned.

The Bible is very clear on this point. "Christ suffered for our sins, the Just for the unjust".

This tremendous fact of the substitutionary death of Christ, which is the very heart and core of the Christian Gospel, is the special subject of contemplation in your church's services during the Lenten season. Resolve now not to miss a single service during Lent, the season in which Christians meditate upon the awful price of their redemption.

THE BRITISH LUTHERAN

February 1959

Vol. IV, No. 2

Published monthly in the interest of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of England

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13 Twyford Avenue London N. 2

PRICE : THREEPENCE